

NOTES ON THE NESTING OF *PYCNOPTILUS*
FLOCCOSUS (Gould), IN N.S.W.

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(Plate XX.)

Some months ago I made some remarks on the occurrence of this hitherto scarce bird in N. S. Wales, prior to which it had only been recorded from our more southern provinces. Our taxidermist, Mr. J. A. Thorpe, procured some beautiful specimens in the flesh at Cambewarra, about 100 miles south of Port Jackson; and Mr. Yardley, of that district has forwarded quite recently the nest and eggs taken by a Mr. Sinclair, a timber-getter working in the adjacent scrubs. The nest, I am informed, was placed on or very near the ground among some *débris* on a bank or slope; it is a rather loose structure, built of shreds of bark chiefly, and lined with feathers of various kinds, among which may be distinguished those of the Lyre bird, Cat-bird, and some of the *Pycnoptilus* itself. In form it is somewhat dome-shaped, placed on its side and with a large, rough ill-defined opening, which was probably narrowed by the adjacent *débris* among which it was placed.

The eggs, two in number for a sitting, are in tint of a dark rich purplish brown like those of *Sericornis citreogularis*, with an indistinct zone at the larger end of a blackish tint, and a few ill-defined obsolete spots of the same on the other parts; they are smaller and more dot-like nearer the thin end, where the ground-colour is slightly lighter in tint; they measure as follows (A.) 1 inch, by 0·75, and (B.) 0·95 inch by 0·75 inch. They are decidedly swollen and much shorter in proportion, but otherwise very like the dark variety of the eggs of the *Sericornis citreogularis*.

Mr. A. J. North, of Melbourne, who took a nest of this species so far back as October, 1878, at Childers, in South Gippsland, and exhibited the first specimens I had seen, at the International Exhibition held in Melbourne, 1880, informs me that this species was very plentiful in that district up to 1881, but the numerous clearings made by the "selectors" have since driven the birds to other parts. The eggs he states show no difference from those here described, except that some are slightly longer, and not so swollen as others.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XX.

Fig. 1, Nest, and fig. 2, Egg of *Pycnoptilus floccosus*, from the Cambewarra District.